

# Ash Wednesday

## *The Gathering*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **The Greeting**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

## **Introduction**

*The president explains the meaning of Lent and invites the people to observe it faithfully*  
Brothers and sisters in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

## The Collect

*The president says*

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## ¶ *The Liturgy of the Word*

### Readings

**First Reading**      Isaiah 58.1-12

*At the end*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading**      John 8.1-11

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts.      *cf Psalm 95.3, 8*

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

# Sermon

## ¶ *The Liturgy of Penitence*

### Self-examination and Confession

Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

God the Father,

**have mercy upon us.**

God the Son,

**have mercy upon us.**

God the Holy Spirit,

**have mercy upon us.**

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,

**have mercy upon us.**

From all evil and mischief;

from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;

from envy, hatred, and malice;

and from all evil intent,

**good Lord, deliver us.**

From sloth, worldliness and love of money;

from hardness of heart

and contempt for your word and your laws,

**good Lord, deliver us.**

From sins of body and mind;

from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,

**good Lord, deliver us.**

In all times of sorrow;

in all times of joy;

in the hour of death,

and at the day of judgement,

**good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;  
by your birth, childhood and obedience;  
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

By your ministry in word and work;  
by your mighty acts of power;  
and by your preaching of the kingdom,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

By your agony and trial;  
by your cross and passion;  
and by your precious death and burial,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

By your mighty resurrection;  
by your glorious ascension;  
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

Give us true repentance;  
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance  
and our deliberate sins;  
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit  
to amend our lives according to your holy word.  
**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

*Silence is kept.*

Make our hearts clean, O God;  
**and renew a right spirit within us.**

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,  
in what we have thought,  
in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We have wounded your love,  
and marred your image in us.  
We are sorry and ashamed,  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and lead us out from darkness  
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

*The president says*

God our Father,  
the strength of all who put their trust in you,  
mercifully accept our prayers;  
and because, in our weakness,  
we can do nothing good without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in keeping your commandments  
we may please you, both in will and deed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord enrich *you* with his grace,  
and nourish *you* with his blessing;  
the Lord defend *you* in trouble and keep *you* from all evil;  
the Lord accept *your* prayers,  
and absolve *you* from *your* offences,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us access to his grace. *Romans 5.1,2*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

# **The Lord's Prayer**

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom  
and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants, give you most humble and hearty thanks  
for all your goodness and loving kindness.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies  
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful,  
and that we show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips but in our lives,  
by giving up ourselves to your service,  
and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## *The Dismissal*

### **Responsory**

This is love, not that we loved God,  
**but that he loved us and sent his Son.**

He is the sacrifice for our sins,  
**that we might live through him.**

If God loves us so much  
**we ought to love one another.**

If we love one another

**God lives in us.**                    *cf 1 John 4.12*

### **The Blessing**

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **The Dismissal**

*A minister says*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**